

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05
INRE-00 SSO-00 EB-03 /034 R

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APPROVED BY P:PHABIB
ARA:TATODMAN
AA/LA:DLION
S/S- MR. SHANKLE

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O 082356Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051621

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, ETRD, PFOR, JM

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON: UNDER
SECRETARY'S LUNCH

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF VERY CORDIAL MARCH 4 LUNCHEON
HOSTED BY UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, THE QUESTION OF JOINT
ECONOMIC TEAMS WAS FURTHER DISCUSSED, AND A FOLLOWING
WORKING LEVEL MEETING DEFINED SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES
AND MODALITIES OF THE PROPOSED TEAMS.

UNDER SECRETARY HABIB
ASSURED PATTERSON THAT WE SEEK BETTER RELATIONS AND WANT
TO ASSIST JAMAICA, EMPHASIZING THAT THE CIA HAS NOT HAD
AND WILL NOT HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JAMAICAN
OPPOSITION. HABIB NOTED THE LIMITATIONS ON US ASSISTANCE
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AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION WITH THE IMF.
THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT BOTH THE US
AND JAMAICAN SIDES ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF A MULTI-
LATERAL EFFORT TO ASSIST JAMAICA IN MEETING ITS ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FOLLOW UP TO THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 3 MEETING WITH

FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON, UNDER SECRETARY HABIB HOSTED A WORKING LUNCH AT THE DEPARTMENT MARCH 4. IN BEFORE-LUNCH CONVERSATION ALONE WITH PATTERSON AND AMBASSADOR RATTRAY, UNDER SECRETARY HABIB MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THIS ADMINISTRATION IS INTERESTED IN THE CARIBBEAN AND MEANS TO DEVELOP A COHERENT CARIBBEAN POLICY. WE DO NOT SEE JAMAICA IN ISOLATION BUT RATHER AS THE CENTER OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN.

B. WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL IN COMMON AND WE WANT TO BUILD ON OUR COMMON INTERESTS AND TRADITIONS TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS.

C. THE CIA DID NOT SUPPORT THE OPPOSITION IN THE RECENT ELECTION. THERE WAS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CIA AND THE OPPOSITION AND THERE WILL BE NONE. (THIS ASSURANCE WAS DELIVERED VERY FORCEFULLY.)

D. DESTABILIZATION IS ABSOLUTELY INCONSISTENT WITH U.S. INTERESTS. WE WANT TO SEE A HEALTHY, GROWING, SUCCESSFUL JAMAICA AND THAT IS THE THRUST OF OUR JAMAICA POLICY.

E. WE WANT TO BE HELPFUL, BUT THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT WE CAN DO. WE MUST SIT DOWN AND CONSIDER JOINTLY WHAT IS POSSIBLE WITHIN OUR BUDGETARY AND LEGISLATIVE CONSTRAINTS.

3. THE UNDER SECRETARY ALSO REFERRED TO THE DIFFICULTIES
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WHICH THE REVERE DISPUTE CAUSES US. PATTERSON SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL BE SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS PROBLEM TO OPIC, REFERRING TO HIS EARLIER CONVERSATION MARCH 4 WITH OPIC PRESIDENT MARSHALL MAYS. (MEETING WITH OPIC BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.)

4. DURING LUNCH MUCH OF THE CONVERSATION REVOLVED AROUND PATTERSON'S EARLIER SUGGESTION TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT TECHNICAL TEAMS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TEAMS SHOULD BE CONVENED IN KINGSTON AFTER THE GOJ PRODUCES ITS PRODUCTION PROGRAM, I.E., EARLY APRIL. PATTERSON SUGGESTED THAT A WORKING LEVEL MEETING BE CONVENED EVENING MARCH 4 TO CONSIDER FURTHER THE MODALITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF SUCH TEAMS. (SEE PARA 7 BELOW.)

5. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB SEVERAL TIMES MENTIONED THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION WITH THE IMF. PATTERSON EXPLAINED GOJ DIFFICULTIES WITH THE IMF DEVALUATION

PRESCRIPTION, NOTED THAT THE GOJ WILL BE MEETING WITH THE IMF IN APRIL AFTER THE PRODUCTION PROGRAM IS ANNOUNCED, AND SAID "WE ARE REALLY VERY ANXIOUS TO PERSUADE THE IMF THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IS IN OUR BEST INTERESTS AND IN LINE WITH THEIR VIEWS".

6. PATTERSON ALSO RAISED AS SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER GOJ/USG CONSIDERATION THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL CAPITAL FLOWS FROM JAMAICA, THE NEED TO UPDATE OUR EXTRADITION TREATY, GOJ DESIRE FOR A FISHERIES AGREEMENT, THE POSSIBILITY OF A TAX TREATY, AND DIFFICULTIES IN THE TRANSIENT FARM WORKER PROGRAM. REFERRING TO GOJ EFFORTS TO RE-INVIGORATE THEIR TOURIST INDUSTRY, PATTERSON SUGGESTED THE USG COULD BE HELPFUL ON THE ISSUES OF PROMOTIONAL FARES AND TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR CONVENTIONS HELD ABROAD.

7. FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON THE SUBJECT OF JOINT ECONOMIC TEAMS WAS ATTENDED BY PERMANENT SECRETARIES FRANCIS
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AND MASON, JAMAICAN DCM STIMPSON, DONOR LION AND OTHER STATE AND A.I.D. OFFICERS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PURPOSE OF A JOINT ECONOMIC TEAM WOULD BE TO ASSESS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN JAMAICA, BOTH THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. THE TEAM WOULD PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TOTAL AND TYPE OF RESOURCES NEEDED, FROM BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SOURCES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SOURCE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. IT WOULD NOT BE A CASE OF THE TEAM'S TRYING SIMPLY TO DEFINE WHAT THE USG CAN DO TO ASSIST; RATHER THE TEAM WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HOW THE GOJ PROPOSED TO MEET ITS REQUIREMENTS FROM ALL SOURCES, INCLUDING IN THE FIRST INSTANCE GOJ SELF-HELP. THE JAMAICANS INDICATED THEY WOULD SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE TEAM WITHIN APPROXIMATELY A WEEK. IT WAS AGREED THAT A SMALL ADVANCE GROUP OF THREE OR FOUR AMERICAN EXPERTS COULD BE SENT TO KINGSTON IN EARLY APRIL - AFTER THE EMERGENCY PRODUCTION PLAN WAS COMPLETED AND REVIEWED BY CABINET - TO FURTHER DEFINE THE SCOPE OF WORK. DEPENDING UPON THE PRELIMINARY GOJ SCOPE AND THE SITUATION AT THAT TIME, THIS ADVANCE TEAM MIGHT INCLUDE PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BEGIN THE ACTUAL ASSESSMENT. IT WAS HOPED THAT BY THE END OF APRIL, IF ALL WENT WELL, THE FULL GOJ/USG TEAM WOULD BE WORKING. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO KNOW AT AN APPROPRIATE POINT OF THIS ACTIVITY. IT WAS AGREED THAT OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS, INCLUDING THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED AS WORK PROGRESSED, AND THAT JOINT CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO DRAWING THEM INTO THE PROCEDURE AT AN EARLY DATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE051621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TJCHEAVNER/BTK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770080-0279
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770380/aaaacsyi.tel
Line Count: 170
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cf17febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3171818
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON: UNDER SECRETARY'S LUNCH
TAGS: ECON, EFIN, ETRD, PFOR, JM, US, (HABIB, PHILIP C), (PATTERSON, P J)
To: KINGSTON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf17febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009